

Arizona Department of Agriculture

1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007 (602) 542-3262 FAX (602) 364-0830

Livestock & Crop Conservation Grant Program (LCCGP) Public Comment Period on Grant Program Guidelines and Criteria

The Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) is responsible for developing, implementing and managing the Livestock & Crop Conservation Grant Program (LCCGP). This grant program was created by the State Legislature through Arizona Revised Statute §41-511.23 (G)(1). Per the grant program authorizing statute, eligible applicants include: individual landowners and grazing and agricultural lessees of state or federal lands that desire to implement conservation based management alternatives using livestock or crop production or reduction to provide wildlife habitat or other public benefits that preserve open space.

Recently, the ADA made revisions to the Livestock & Crop Conservation Grant Program. The FY2016 funding cycle will be limited to projects that restore grassland habitat, provide and/or ensure reliable water on grassland habitat and eliminate fencing barriers within two distinct focal areas in the high desert and semi-desert grasslands of Northern and Southeastern Arizona. The FY 2016 grant program guidelines and criteria are subject to a 60-day public comment period scheduled for: June 22, 2015 through August 21, 2015. At the conclusion of the public comment period, the grant program manual and application will be finalized and published and a grant application deadline will be announced.

The Livestock & Crop Conservation Grant Program guidelines and criteria are posted on the Arizona Department of Agriculture website, https://agriculture.az.gov/, under the 'About Us' tab, then select 'Grant Opportunities'. You may also direct questions to, or request a copy of the grant program guidelines and criteria by contacting the LCCGP staff listed below.

If you would like to make comments on the FY 2016 grant program guidelines and criteria, you may submit your written comments via e-mail, fax or mail by August 21, 2015 to:

Lisa James LCCGP Grant Program Manager Arizona Department of Agriculture 1688 West Adams Street Phoenix, AZ 85007 Phone: (602) 542-3262

Phone: (602) 542-3262 E-mail: <u>ljames@azda.gov</u>

Toll Free Outside Maricopa County: (800) 294-0308

Fax: (602) 364-0830

Ashley Worthington LCCGP Grant Program Coordinator Arizona Department of Agriculture 1688 West Adams Street Phoenix, AZ 85007 Phone: (602) 542-0972

Email: aworthington@azda.gov

The Arizona Department of Agriculture will conduct a public hearing to solicit public comment on the FY 2016 grant program guidelines and criteria. The hearing date and location is as follows:

July 29, 2015 1 PM

Arizona Department of Agriculture 1688 West Adams Street, Room 206 Phoenix, AZ 85007

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter by contacting agency ADA Coordinator, Danielle Salomon (602) 542-4315 (voice) or 1-800-367-3839 (TDD Relay). Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.